



FREDERICK COUNTY GOVERNMENT

DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Department of Emergency Preparedness

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News Release

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SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL PREPAREDNESS MONTH "Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How"

FREDERICK, MD – The Frederick County Division of Emergency Management and its preparedness partners announce that September is National Preparedness Month. Frederick County Executive Jan Gardner kicked-off the month with a [proclamation ceremony](#).

National Preparedness Month, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's *Ready America* campaign, is a nationwide effort designed to increase awareness as well as encourage individuals, families, and communities to take action to prepare for emergencies and to engage in preparedness at home, work, businesses, school and places of worship. This year's focus will be on planning with an overall theme: Disasters Happen. Prepare Now. Learn How. Each week will have its own unique theme:

2018 Weekly Themes

- Week 1: Sept. 1-8 Make and Practice Your Plan
- Week 2: Sept. 9-15 Learn Life Saving Skills
- Week 3: Sept. 16-22 Check Your Coverage
- Week 4: Sept. 23-29 Save For an Emergency
- Sept. 15 is a National Day of Action

In support of the National Day of Action and the weekly theme Learn Life Saving Skills, Frederick County Emergency Responders will conduct a free community preparedness seminar on September 15 from 8 a.m. – 1 p.m. at the Public Safety Training Facility, 5370 Public Safety Place, Frederick. Attendance will be restricted to the first 60 registrants and will be closed on September 7. Another course will be conducted on October 20 at the Frederick Police Training Facility at 6424 Plant Road, Frederick, and registration will close on October 12.

(more)

Training will include Preparedness planning, Civilian Response to Active Shooter Event, Stop the Bleed, CPR (non-certificate class) and Naloxone/Narcan® overdose training. Registration is being conducted through [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) for Sept. 15 and Oct. 20 trainings at www.tinyurl.com/PreparednessSeminar.

Frederick County Emergency Management and preparedness partners encourage businesses and residents to do their part to keep the community safe by preparing for emergencies and developing practical responses before disasters strike. We can build more resilient communities by working with our families, friends, and coworkers on how to better protect themselves by reviewing preparedness plans, updating disaster supply kits and knowing where to find local information.

The main reason to prepare is to help protect yourself and your family in the event of an emergency. Every citizen in this country is part of a national emergency management system that is all about protecting people and property from all types of hazards. It is your responsibility to protect yourself and your family by knowing what to do before, during, and after an event.

Before

- Know the risks and danger signs.
- Ensure you have the proper insurance coverage.
- Develop an emergency plan.
- Assemble a disaster supply kit.
- Stay informed – sign up for the Alert Frederick County system.
- Volunteer to help others.

During

- Put your plan into action.
- Help others.
- Follow the advice and guidance of officials in charge of the event.

After

- Evaluate your home for damage.
- Repair damaged property.
- Take steps to prevent or reduce future loss.

There are benefits to being prepared

- Being prepared can reduce fear, anxiety, and losses that accompany disasters.
- Communities, families, and individuals should know what roads frequently flood and never drive through standing water.
- People also can reduce the impact of disasters by being prepared and implementing a few simple mitigation measures:
 - Clean out gutters and secure lawn items.
 - Ensure that trees are properly trimmed.
 - Elevate appliances in basements.
 - Secure hot water and propane tanks.
 - Make sure all family members know how to shut off the utilities.

Frederick County: Rich History, Bright Future

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The need to prepare is real

- Disasters disrupt hundreds of thousands of lives every year. Each disaster has lasting effects, both to people and property.
- You should know how to respond to severe weather or any disaster that could occur in your area – hurricanes, earthquakes, winter storms, flooding, or terrorism.
- You should also be ready to be self-sufficient for at least three days. This may mean providing for your own shelter, first aid, food, water and sanitation.

Be informed of the weather-related hazards. Residents are strongly encouraged to register to receive emergency information from ALERT Frederick County at:
www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/ALERT.

Like us on Facebook www.facebook.com/FCGMDDDEM/ and follow us on Twitter https://twitter.com/FCG_DEM. Emergency messages are also broadcast on WFMD 930 AM, WFRE 99.9 FM, WAFY 103.1 FM, Frederick County Government cable channel 19, Frederick County Public Schools cable channel 18, municipal government cable channel 99 (where available) and WDVM TV.

For more information on preparing for, responding to and recovering from emergencies and hazards, visit www.FrederickCountyMD.gov/READY. The Department of Emergency Preparedness can be contacted at 301-600-1746 or EM@FrederickCountyMD.gov.

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